

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 10046347-102601
- 1           1.     A system for improving the performance of a plurality of peripheral  
2     devices, comprising:  
3           a first peripheral device associated with a first software component and having  
4     a first functionality; and  
5           a second peripheral device associated with a second software component and  
6     having a second functionality, the second peripheral device being coupled to the first  
7     peripheral device, the first and second peripheral devices together performing  
8     functionality in addition to the first and second functionalities and having a common  
9     user interface.
  - 1           2.     The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices  
2     are coupled via a computer.
  - 1           3.     The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices  
2     are coupled via a network.
  - 1           4.     The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices  
2     are coupled via a wireless network.
  - 1           5.     The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second peripheral devices  
2     are coupled directly to each other.

1           6.     The system of claim 1, wherein the first peripheral device is a scanner  
2     and the second peripheral device is a printer and the first and second peripheral devices  
3     combine to perform the functionality of a copier.

1           7.     The system of claim 1, further comprising a graphical user interface,  
2     where the graphical user interface receives information from the first and second  
3     software components and presents to a user the additional functionality.

1           8.     The system of claim 1, wherein the first software component associated  
2     with the first peripheral device and the second software component associated with the  
3     second peripheral device allow the first and second peripheral devices to exchange  
4     information over a network, the information pertaining to the identity of the first  
5     peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

1           9.     The system of claim 8, wherein the information exchanged between the  
2     first and second peripheral devices further comprises information relating to the  
3     capabilities of the first peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

1           10.    The system of claim 9, wherein the first peripheral device modifies its  
2     capabilities based on the information received from the second peripheral device.

1           11.    The system of claim 9, wherein the first peripheral device presents to a  
2     user a menu of available functionality based on the information received from the  
3     second peripheral device.

1 12. A method for improving the functionality of a plurality of peripheral  
2 devices, the method comprising the steps of:

3 providing a first peripheral device associated with a first software component  
4 and having a first functionality;

5 coupling a second peripheral device associated with a second software component  
6 and a second functionality to the first peripheral device; and

7 where the first and second peripheral devices together perform functionality in  
8 addition to the first and second functionalities and have a common user interface.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of coupling the  
2 first and second peripheral devices via a computer.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of coupling the  
2 first and second peripheral devices via a network.

1 15. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of coupling the  
2 first and second peripheral devices via a wireless network.

1 16. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of directly  
2 coupling the first and second peripheral devices.

1 17. The method of claim 12, wherein the first peripheral device is a scanner  
2 and the second peripheral device is a printer and the first and second peripheral devices  
3 combine to perform the functionality of a copier.

1           18.    The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of presenting to a  
2    user the additional functionality.

1           19.    The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of the first and  
2    second peripheral devices exchanging information over a network, the information  
3    pertaining to the identity of the first peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

1           20.    The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of exchanging  
2    information between the first and second peripheral devices, the information relating to  
3    the capabilities of the first peripheral device and the second peripheral device.

1           21.    The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of modifying the  
2    capabilities of the first peripheral device based on the information received from the  
3    second peripheral device.

1           22.    The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of the first  
2    peripheral device presenting to a user a menu of available functionality based on the  
3    information received from the second peripheral device.

- 1           23.    A system for improving the performance of a plurality of peripheral  
2    devices, comprising:  
3           a first peripheral device associated with a first software component and having  
4    a first functionality; and  
5           a second peripheral device associated with a second software component and  
6    having a second functionality, the second peripheral device being coupled to the first  
7    peripheral device, the first and second peripheral devices together performing  
8    functionality in addition to the first and second functionalities.

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